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The President's
State of the
School Address



Bruins are Back!

Months of virtual learning finally came to end on February 1 when students returned for consistent in-person instruction for the first time since March 2020. Half of the students are on campus each day following a new hybrid schedule to maintain smaller classes for social distancing. If pandemic conditions continue to improve, the goal is to have all students back on campus starting March 1.



DPCR and Corporate Work Study Program Recognized as Nonprofit of the Year

DePaul Cristo Rey has been recognized as a 2020 Greater Cincinnati Nonprofit of the Year Award winner. DPCR was featured in Cincy Magazine's winter issue.

DPCR was the winner in the Career Counseling category and remains the only local high school with a Corporate Work Study Program. The CWSP has been suspended this school year due to COVID-19's impact, but will resume next school year. It offers students invaluable professional exposure and experience while benefitting businesses that seek to improve their pipeline of future talent and increase their community engagement. To be part of this win-win equation, contact DPCR President Siobhan Taylor at siobhan.taylor@dpcr.net or 513.861.0600.



Innovative Program Aims to Upend Traditional Math Teaching



People, particularly students, seem to either love or hate math, and that's not lost on DePaul Cristo Rey's math teachers who see many students struggle in their classrooms. "Many of our students have the mindset that if you're not good at math, you're not smart," says Math Teacher **Dominic Masotti**, pictured above. "It's not true, but that ingrained outlook is challenging to overcome."

Changing Minds and Math

The opportunity to challenge that mindset is among the reasons Dominic is exuberant when he talks about DPCR's participation in the **Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI)**, a professional development program for teachers funded through and promoted by the **Cristo Rey Network**.

Dominic and Principal **Paul Ebert** led the charge for DPCR to join the SVMI's two-year program to improve the quality of math instruction, totally transforming the traditional math classroom setting and in turn, increasing student achievement. All of DPCR's math teachers began the rigorous program this school year in a cohort with other Cristo Rey math educators around the country. "This program is providing us a professional framework to learn and be coached in research-based, proven teaching methods," says Dominic.

Even while teaching math virtually from August to February, Dominic noticed a difference when he incorporated what he was learning through the SVMI. "When I use a SVMI technique in my class, the lesson just goes better. There is more student input, activity and learning. It's the kind of math that should be taught, period," he says.

A Great Sense of Optimism

SVMI aims to improve math instruction by helping teachers not only incorporate thoughtful activities in the classroom, but to learn effective techniques on how to help support and respond to students' learning. Teachers are even given the opportunity to observe one another practicing these techniques in the classroom. Dominic says, "It takes the approach that struggle is good and mistakes are good because they are a path to learning."

As the pandemic continues to enormously impact education and while its long-term effects on student learning are yet to be known, Dominic has hope for students' improved math achievement. "This program really empowers me with a great sense of optimism. I was spinning my wheels trying to make traditional math teaching work for my students," he says. "Now my great hope is that this will increase students' positive relationship with math."

Help Rey of Light Shine April 24



The **Rey of Light Scholarship Benefit for Students** is more important than ever given the impact of this past year's challenges on our school program, students' families, and the Corporate Work Study Program. Please save the date and join co-chairs **Julie Ross** and **Cathy Ramstetter** for a virtual Rey of Light on **Saturday, April 24**. Online silent auction bidding will be open for several days ahead and will conclude with a **live virtual auction** and **Fund-A-Need** paddle raise on April 24.

As a virtual event, there's room for everyone and no need to buy tickets. Watch your mail and DPCR's web and social media sites for updates on how to register to bid and participate.

If you have questions or want to make a donation, contact **Lisa Muething** at 513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net.

New Members Named to Board of Directors



Chukwuma (Chuma) Ekwueme,
*President and CEO of
Sure Mechanical*



Mona Morrow,
*Community Affairs Director and
Co-host of the Cincy Lifestyle
program at WCPO-TV*



Michael Schuster,
*Founder, Principal and President
of MSA Design*

Grants Benefit Students and Grads

Current students and college-enrolled graduates are benefitting from the generosity of friends and foundations who have made gifts to the school in the past months. These include:

William P. Anderson Foundation:

\$4,000 for test prep

Cristo Rey Network:

Grants for the Emergency Needs Fund (\$3,000), emergency tuition (\$5,000) and test prep (\$5,000)

Charles H. Dater Foundation:

\$30,000 for the Graduate Success Program

Cincinnati Woman's Club:

\$1,000 for student tuition support

Justin R. Niklas Family Foundation:

\$10,000 for the Graduate Success Program

The L & L Nippert Charitable Foundation:

\$100,000 for the Corporate Work Study Program

Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust:

\$1,500 for the Service Learning Program

Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union:

\$1,000 for the All in @10 Program

Ohio Department of Education:

\$7,842 for technology

Pandemic Doesn't Stop Seniors



David '21 in the "Accepted to College" shirt given to each senior.

While spending more than half of their senior year learning from home, members of the Class of 2021 haven't lost sight of their goal of college acceptance.

Seniors have worked remotely with their teachers and counselors to submit all of the required pieces of their college and financial aid applications. And that work has paid off; as this newsletter goes to print, 83 percent of seniors

have been accepted to 143 colleges and universities including Hampton University, Miami University, Ohio State University, Spelman College, and the University of Notre Dame.

Meet DePaul Cristo Rey's New President (Virtually)



Since joining DPCR in September, new President **Siobhan Taylor** has been getting to know the campus, staff, students and families. There are several upcoming opportunities for you to meet her too – virtually.

Once a month, she hosts an informal 30-45-minute chat on Zoom to give school updates, share her vision for DPCR's future, and answer questions.

Please join her at 10:00 a.m. on any of the following dates:

February 26 | April 23 | May 28

Please RSVP to **Beth Barnett** at beth.barnett@dpcr.net and the Zoom link will be emailed to you in advance.

New Scholarship Supports Grads, Honors Sister Jeanne Bessette



When the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati** selected **Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSE, Ed.D.**, as the founding president of DePaul Cristo Rey, she joined them in a leap of faith to open a new high school. She led DPCR from its infancy into a thriving school with successful graduates.

With a lead gift from a generous friend, DePaul Cristo Rey has established the **Sister Jeanne Bessette Graduate Success Scholarship** to allow her legacy work to flourish. The scholarship will be part of the **Graduate Success Fund**. A campaign is underway to raise \$6 million to endow this fund which supports DPCR graduates as they persist through college. The Sister Jeanne Bessette Scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating senior whose selection is based on her/his academic performance and financial need; the scholarship will be renewable each year the student is enrolled in college.

Please help us honor Sister Jeanne and continue her legacy by using the enclosed envelope to make a gift. If you have questions, please contact Vice President of Advancement **Sparkle Worley** at 513.861.0600, extension 320.

Outpouring of Support for Loss of Recent Grad

People from all facets of the DePaul Cristo Rey community gathered for a candlelight prayer vigil in front of the school December 15 to remember **Serreno Foster '20** who had died three days earlier.

Serreno's family joined students, graduates, families, current and former teachers and staff, and Board members to remember Serreno through scripture, song, prayer, and shared remembrances. The outpouring of support was also felt through flowers, cards, food, and condolences shared with the school and his family.



Serreno Foster '20



Be a Virtual Champion of Change

February 23 at noon



Want to feel like a Champion? Grab your lunch, your laptop or tablet, and spend 20 inspiring minutes with the DePaul Cristo Rey community at **noon on February 23 for Champions of Change.**

This virtual event promises a brief, uplifting, informative program to learn more about DePaul Cristo Rey and our one-of-a-kind Graduate Success Program. DePaul Cristo Rey is the only local high school with a formal, robust program of this type that supports its graduates through college. The Graduate Success Program provides human and financial resources to alumni helping them overcome any barriers to college completion; it's considered pioneering within the **Cristo Rey Network.**

Champions of Change gifts will have even greater impact this year thanks to two generous friends who have offered to match any new and increased Champions gifts. To register for the virtual program go to: dpcrchampions.swell.gives.

If this newsletter arrives in your mailbox after February 23, we apologize that you could not join us but you can find the Champions of Change program on our YouTube channel. We welcome your gift that will still count for the match to www.depaulcristorey.org/giving.

CHAMPIONS OF
CHANGE ★
Making College Graduation Possible

Celebrating our Newest College Graduates

DePaul Cristo Rey is proud to spotlight its alumni who have graduated from college in the past months. Congratulations to:



Anthony Lockett '16 (December 2020)
Environmental Sciences
University of Cincinnati



Imani Vann '16 (December 2020)
General Music
Berea College

Michaela Townsend '16 (December 2020)
Behavioral Science
Mount St. Joseph University

Aninya Cunningham '17 (August 2020)
Black World Studies,
minor Global Health Studies
Miami University

“I thank God for the opportunities DPCR has given me.”

The family of **Brandon Ford '15** enrolled him in DePaul Cristo Rey before the school was even open; he can't believe that's been almost 10 years ago. “I'm so glad that my grandmother did what she did and signed me up. She responded in faith and took a risk on a new school,” he says. “As the first class we were the testers going through changes with the school. Through it all we had a great experience and got a great education.”

Following his graduation, DPCR's first, Brandon enrolled at **Wilmington College** and graduated this past May with an accounting degree and Wilmington's highest honor for student leadership, the Robert E. Lucas Leadership Award. His list of campus activities and leadership roles is impressive: resident assistant, student ambassador, mentor for two university offices, and leader of the percussion section of the Quaker Thunder Pep Band. He co-founded Men of Excellence and served as president of the Chi Alpha Christian fellowship chapter.

His accounting, communication and leadership skills are all at play as he pursues a career in banking. He's a credit underwriter at National Cooperative Bank in Hillsboro, Ohio. “When I started college I planned to pursue a music career; I chose an accounting major so I would know how to manage my finances,” Brandon explains. “Gradually my focus changed and now a career in banking is a way for me to step out and help others. I want to fill in a need in lower income communities including Black, Hispanic and rural, so that each individual can have the knowledge and tools to pursue their dream.”

Brandon cutting the ribbon to open DPCR in June 2011.

While he didn't know it 10 years ago, Brandon realizes now that the opportunity to pursue his dreams started at DPCR. “I'm very thankful for DePaul Cristo Rey and the advantages it gave me as an African-American male, compared to others my age. Lessons I learned at DPCR and experiences I had in the Corporate Work Study Program are still helping me to this day in my career,” he says. “DPCR was and is ahead of its time. I'm so grateful to all there who saw something in me that I didn't see in myself, and I thank God for the opportunities DPCR has given me.”



Wilmington College Graduation May 2020.





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Rey of Light

DePaul Cristo Rey High School



Save the Date for a Virtual Rey of Light
in support of DePaul Cristo Rey High School

April 24, 2021

Watch your mail and DPCR's web and social media sites
for updates on how to register to bid and participate.

Have questions now? Contact **Lisa Muething**
at 513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net.